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<b>UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL</b> <small>(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b))</small>	Attorney Docket No.	728-168 (YOR9-2000-0204)
	First Inventor or Application Identifier	Wlodek W. Zadrozny
	Title	Web-Based Secured Forum for...
	Express Mail Label No.	EL484185381US

<b>APPLICATION ELEMENTS</b> See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.	<b>ADDRESS TO:</b> Assistant Commissioner for Patents Box Patent Application Washington, DC 20231
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> * Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17) (Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)	5. <input type="checkbox"/> Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)
2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification [Total Pages <b>91</b> ] (preferred arrangement set forth below) - Descriptive title of the Invention - Cross References to Related Applications - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D - Reference to Microfiche Appendix - Background of the Invention - Brief Summary of the Invention - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed) - Detailed Description - Claim(s) - Abstract of the Disclosure	6. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Readable Copy b. <input type="checkbox"/> Paper Copy (identical to computer copy) c. <input type="checkbox"/> Statement verifying identity of above copies
3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets <b>10</b> ] 4. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages <b>6</b> ] a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newly executed (original or copy) b. <input type="checkbox"/> Copy from a prior application (37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d)) (for continuation/divisional with Box 16 completed) i. <input type="checkbox"/> <u>DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)</u> Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).	<b>ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS</b> 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s)) 8. <input type="checkbox"/> 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b) Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney (when there is an assignee) 9. <input type="checkbox"/> English Translation Document (if applicable) 10. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Copies of IDS Citations 11. <input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Amendment 12. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) (Should be specifically itemized) 13. <input type="checkbox"/> * Small Entity Statement filed in prior application, Status still proper and desired (PTO/SB/09-12) 14. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed) 15. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:

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16. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment.

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No. \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Prior application information: Examiner \_\_\_\_\_ Group / Art Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

For CONTINUATION or DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

## 17. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

☐ Customer Number or Bar Code Label ☒ Correspondence address below  
 (Insert Customer No. or Attach bar code label here)

Name	Paul J. Farrell				
Address	Dilworth & Barrese 333 Earle Ovington Blvd.				
City	Uniondale	State	NY	Zip Code	11553
Country	U.S.	Telephone	(516) 228-8484	Fax	(516) 228-8516

Name (Print/Type)	Paul J. Farrell	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	33,494
Signature	<i>Paul J. Farrell</i>	Date	July 12, 2000

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 I hereby certify that this correspondence and the documents referred to as enclosed are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on date below in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mail Label Number EL484185381US addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Dated: July 12, 2000

Tidge Holmberg

WEB-BASED SECURED FORUM FOR  
COLLABORATIVE INVENTIONS CREATION

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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1. Field of the Invention

10 This invention relates to a system and method of  
creating patent applications in general, and, in  
particular, to a system and method for forming a group of  
co-inventors, for developing and drafting a patent  
application through a collaborative effort, and for  
apportioning rights in the finished patent application.

15 2. Description of the Related Art

20 In the corporate atmosphere of the new millennium,  
intellectual property is becoming one of the most important  
assets a corporation possesses. Intellectual property, in  
the form of patents, trademarks, and copyrights, is both  
the support for future development, as well as the bulwark  
against competitor's products and practices. This  
invention focuses on the intellectual property of patents.

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Writing a patent application is often a time-consuming and laborious process. Patent agents and attorneys are usually used for this purpose, which adds to the expense and difficulty. The difficulty in drafting a patent prevents laypeople, who may have very good ideas for inventions, from even attempting to patent their ideas. Even when a corporation has many creative individuals, it may not be realizing all of its potential assets. Thus, a corporation may be losing money from ideas that it might have patented or, even worse, may be allowing competitors to take possession of inventions for which personnel at the corporation might have had the idea first. Therefore, there is a need for a simplified system and method to develop and draft patent applications.

In addition, in a corporation, as an example, there may be individuals that don't know about a particular patent proposal, but whose abilities might be a perfect asset to the development of that patent proposal, as well as its subsequent writing. Outside the structure of a corporation, there may be disparate individuals whose skills would uniquely match them to a patent proposal, but there are no means for them to discover each other or to

form a group. Therefore, there is a need for a system and method of bringing together individuals whose interests, skills, or experience are relevant to a particular patent proposal.

5

Besides the issue of forming a group with relevant skills, the work of developing and writing a patent application is a strenuous task for an individual. In addition, in a corporate environment, the task of preparing a patent application will take an employee away from her other duties and responsibilities. However, this task can be made easier by having more than one individual involved in the creative process, thereby distributing the burden. However, this distribution of the development and writing work presents problems. These co-writers will need to meet, share ideas, assign writing tasks to individuals, review, and revise. As the number of co-writers increases, the individual burden decreases, but the logistics of organizing face-to-face meetings and keeping everyone informed of all the changes increases in the same proportion. For people in a corporation, there is again the problem of time being taken away from the day-to-day work of the employees who are acting as co-writers. For

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5 individuals who are not connected by a corporation or even geographically, the logistics of organizing a group development effort may be insurmountable. Therefore, there is a need for a system to organize and simplify the interaction between co-writers who are writing a patent application.

10 On the other hand, even if the group of co-writers is effectively organized to write together, the issue of individual rights to the final product still needs to be addressed. If, in the end, the group of co-writers will retain their rights to the issued patent (rather than assigning them to an employer), they may wish to agree contractually beforehand as to what each member can do.

15 For instance, they may decide to assign their rights to a company in which they are the only shareholders. Further, they may decide to apportion the number of shares given to each member according to that member's contribution to the project. If this is an invention that will be assigned to

20 an employer for which all the co-writers work, the employer may have a policy of disbursing royalties, bonuses, or benefits to co-inventor/employees for valuable issued patents or for the number of filed patent applications. In

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this case, the group of co-writers may want to apportion  
these benefits according to the work or skill that each co-  
writer brought to the project. Therefore, there is a need  
to effectively apportion rights in the patent application  
5 or future issued patent amongst the various people working  
on it.

10 In summary, there is a need for a system and method  
for forming a group of co-writers, for organizing the group  
so that they may effectively collaborate on developing and  
writing a patent application, and for the group to  
negotiate concerning rights in the patent application or  
future issued patent.

15 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of this invention is to provide a system and  
method for creating a group of potential co-inventors,  
based on their interests, skills and experience.

20 Another object of the invention is to provide a system  
and method for simplifying and systematizing a procedure  
for drafting patent applications.

Another object of the invention is to provide a system and a method for a group of co-inventors to collaborate on developing and drafting a patent application.

5

Yet another object of the invention is to provide a system and method for collaborative drafting of a patent application over a network.

10

A further object of the invention is to provide a system and method for a group of co-inventors to negotiate their respective rights in a patent application.

15

To accomplish the above and other objects, a method is proposed, which, in the preferred embodiment, comprises the steps of creating a subscriber list; receiving a proposal of a patent idea by an initial inventor; creating a pool of potential co-inventors by searching through the subscriber lists; providing a forum for the pool of potential co-inventors and the initial inventor to communicate and further develop the patent proposal; soliciting bids on rights in the patent draft, once the patent proposal is ready to enter the drafting stage; allotting rights in the

20

patent draft based on a process of bid, counter-bid, and  
response; writing, by members of the pool of co-inventors  
and the initial inventor, the patent draft based on the  
patent proposal; providing a forum for members of the pool  
5 of co-inventors and the initial inventor to communicate and  
further develop the patent draft; and ending the process,  
once it is determined that the patent draft is in condition  
to do so.

10 To accomplish the above and other objects, a system is  
proposed, which, in the preferred embodiment, comprises a  
network; a Subscriber database for storing subscriber  
records; a terminal by which an initial inventor transmits  
a patent proposal; a Patent Proposal Server for receiving  
15 the patent proposal, for creating a pool of potential co-  
inventors using the Subscriber Database, for storing a  
patent proposal file; a Patent Proposal Web Server for  
providing interactive access to the patent proposal file to  
the initial inventor and the pool of potential co-  
20 inventors; a Rights Negotiation Server for providing an  
interface that allows the initial inventor to solicit bids,  
create counter-bids, and receive responses; a Patent Draft  
Server for storing a patent draft file, once the rights in



the patent draft have been determined; a Patent Draft Web  
Server for providing interactive access to the patent draft  
file to the initial inventor and the pool of co-inventors;  
and a Security System for maintaining appropriate levels of  
5 security.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

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The foregoing and other objects, aspects and  
10 advantages will be better understood from the following  
detailed description of preferred embodiments of the  
invention with reference to the following drawings:

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of the fundamental modules  
15 in the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a flowchart of a method according to the  
preferred embodiment of the present embodiment;

FIG. 3 is a diagram of a system according to the  
preferred embodiment of the present embodiment;

20 FIG. 4 is a diagram of exemplary fields in a Non-  
Subscriber database record according to the preferred  
embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 5 is an exemplary Co-Inventor Subscription web page according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 6 is an exemplary Patent Proposal Input web page according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 7 is a block diagram of the creation of a Patent Proposal Database record by components of a Patent Proposal Database Server according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 8 is an exemplary Patent Proposal Pool web page according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 9 is a flowchart of the steps in a rights negotiation procedure according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 10 is an exemplary Draft web page view of a Patent Draft File according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

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5 In the following description, the terms "server" and "database" are used in a generic functional sense. The term "server" should be understood within the client/server architectural model--the client requests a service, the server provides a service. The term "database" can be understood in its most broad definition, as a data structure storing records. Thus, the servers and databases described below are not necessarily housed in different pieces of hardware. Indeed, any of the servers or databases could be implemented using a distributed network system, where the functional elements of a server or database are not only distributed among nodes, but will often migrate from node to node. On the opposite end of the spectrum, all of the servers and databases discussed below could be resident on one mainframe computer. However much of each server or database is implemented in software, firmware, or hardware is also open to many variations, as is well known in the art.

Furthermore, the terms "network" and "computer" are used in the most general sense. A "computer" is any

computing means, from a single microprocessor or micro-  
controller to a computer system distributed over multiple  
processing nodes. A "network" includes any means that  
connects computers. Thus, although the preferred  
5 embodiment uses an Ethernet LAN, the nodes could connect to  
a central server through individual point-to-point  
connections. Other terms in the text are also to be  
understood in a generic functional sense, as would be known  
by one skilled in the art.

#### 10 I. Overview

The procedure according to the preferred embodiment of  
the present invention can be broken down into three  
15 fundamental blocks, as shown in FIG. 1. The first stage,  
Idea Development 101, involves the proposal of an idea and  
the initial discussions concerning it, as the proposer of  
the idea assesses potential co-inventors and further  
fleshes out details. The first stage ends when the  
20 proposer selects her co-inventors. The second stage, Rights  
Negotiation 102, involves the negotiation between the  
proposer and the selected co-inventors over rights to the  
final patent, if it issues. What rights are being

negotiated will depend on the circumstances of the co-inventors: employees of the same corporation might be negotiating over residual returns or bonuses given by the corporation, people previously unconnected by business ties might negotiate over rights in any patent that issues. When the group has reached a settlement, the third stage, Patent Drafting 103, begins. Patent Drafting 103 involves the collaboration of the group in drafting the patent.

Although these three different stages will be described in the preferred embodiment as being managed by one entity, each stage could be handled by a separate entity. In other words, in the preferred embodiment, a single corporation is managing all three stages for its own employees. However, these functions could be outsourced to a company whose business is directed towards managing one or more of an idea development system, a rights negotiation system, or a patent drafting system. Furthermore, each of these systems could be offered as a service on the Internet. In an Internet embodiment, people could subscribe to one or all of the services by paying a fee.

In the preferred embodiment, as discussed above, a single corporation is maintaining the three systems of FIG.

1. A general outline of the procedure according to the preferred embodiment is shown in FIG. 2. An initial

5 inventor submits a patent idea and the requirements concerning possible co-inventors with whom to develop and write the patent in step 201. The "co-inventor pool", those individuals with the appropriate confidentiality level and co-inventor requirements, are selected in step 210. In the

10 preferred embodiment, a patent proposal committee determines whether it is worthwhile to go forward with the proposal before step 210. The members of the co-inventor pool are contacted with information concerning the patent proposal in step 220. In step 230, interested members of

15 the co-inventor pool and the initial inventor provide suggestions, commentary and other material concerning the patent proposal, and this provided material is shared amongst one or more of the co-inventor pool. At step 240,

20 the patent proposal committee determines whether the patent proposal is ready to enter the patent drafting stage. If it is, the final co-inventors need to be selected in step 250 and the rights of each of the co-inventors need to be determined in step 260. In the preferred embodiment, steps

250 and 260 occur simultaneously, which is why the steps are parallel to each other in FIG. 2. Once steps 250 and 260 are complete, the initial inventor and the co-inventors start the collaborative drafting of the patent application in step 270. A patent draft committee determines whether the patent draft is in final form in step 280. After this, the patent application is given to a patent agent to prepare for filing with a patent office.

The system that performs these activities, according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention, will be described with reference to FIG. 3. The initial inventor, or patent proposer, 100 has a computer terminal 103, which is connected to the corporation's network 105. The terminal 103 is not necessarily on the corporation's grounds, and may be a home PC (personal computer) connected to the corporation's network 105 by a PPP (Point-to-Point Protocol) or SLIP (Serial Line Internet Protocol) connection. Computer 103 has a web browser program, such as Netscape Navigator™, installed.

The network is also connected to a Patent Proposal Web Server 110, a Rights Negotiation Web Server 120, and a

Patent Draft Web Server 130. These three servers deal directly with Idea Development 101, Rights Negotiation 102, and Patent Drafting 103, respectively, as shown in FIG. 1. The Patent Proposal Web Server 110, Rights Negotiation Web Server 120, and Patent Draft Web Server 130 are also connected to a secured network 155. Also on the secured network 155 is a Patent Proposal Database Server 112, a Subscriber Database 114, a Non-Subscriber Database 116, a Patent Draft Server 140, and a Security System 150. As will become clear below, the secured network 155 is not necessary to the invention, if certain servers are directly connected to each other by, for instance, a serial connection.

As discussed above, according to the present invention, the different servers are not necessarily running on different processors and each individual server may be split up among multiple processors. In the preferred embodiment as shown in FIG. 3, there is a further separation between the elements that are directly accessible to the network 105 and the elements which are not. The three Web Servers 110, 120, and 130, are directly connected to the network; whereas the Patent Draft Server



140, Patent Proposal Database Server, Subscriber Database  
114, non-Subscriber Database 116, and Security System 150  
are only connected to the secured network 155. This is in  
order to provide greater security for subscriber, non-  
5 subscriber, and patent information. The Security System 150  
maintains security and monitors the transmission of secured  
information to the Web Servers, as well as on the secured  
network 155 in general. The Security System 150 keeps  
records regarding confidentiality levels and authorized  
10 access to secured information. Each employee, or user of  
the corporate network 105, has a record in the Security  
System 150 describing their confidentiality level, login  
name, passwords, and event history. The Security System  
150 ensures that only authorized personnel, including the  
15 initial inventor and the members of the pool of potential  
co-inventors, access particular web pages. Certain aspects  
of Security System 150 could also be implemented by storing  
the appropriate security information in different database  
records.

20

The Web servers provide access in browser format to  
this secured information, but a user of network 105 will  
not be able to directly access the secured information.



information on network 105 could be used besides Web  
Servers. Although the Patent Draft Server 140 and the  
Patent Proposal Database Server 112 are single units, both  
could be depicted as two units, one for storage, the other  
5 for processing. In other words, for instance, the Patent  
Proposal Database Server 112 could be depicted as a Patent  
Proposal Database for storage and a Patent Proposal Server  
for processing Patent Proposal Database records. For ease  
of explanation, these different functions have been  
10 integrated into one unit.

Other employees of the corporation have access to the  
network through a variety of means. As shown in FIG. 3,  
access may be through a terminal 171. Access can be made  
15 through embedded devices as well, such as a telephone 173,  
or a palm computer device 175. Wireless connections with  
network 105 could also be used, such a laptop with a radio  
connection to network 105.

20 In the preferred embodiment, all employees of the  
corporation are listed in the non-Subscriber Database 116.  
In an Internet embodiment, the entries in the non-  
Subscriber database could be created from Internet



program, such as Netscape Navigator™, to access and post information. Returning to FIG. 3, an employee 190 would enter the Patent Proposal Web Server and click on a "Subscribe?" button or a "Change Subscription Information?" button on the opening Web page. In this context, the terms "click" and "double-click" signify a user pressing the button on a mouse attached to a computer. However, any means of selecting and "pressing" screen icons using a cursor may be used. The employee is then asked for her name, employee id, and an access code. Because this information is being transferred over the corporation's network (or the Internet), a program layer operable in the browser and web server is used to encrypt and decrypt the information. In the preferred embodiment, SSL (Secure Sockets Layer), which uses a public and private key encryption system, is used to pass sensitive data between user terminals and the Web Servers. Furthermore, for the remaining description of the preferred embodiment, it is assumed that SSL is being used for communications between user terminals and Web servers.

After the employee enters the login information, she is presented with a Co-Inventor Subscription Web page, as

shown in FIG. 5. The Co-Inventor Subscription Web Page will present information already on file on the right-hand side, and fields to be filled in on the left-hand side. The "information already on file" includes the data in the employee's non-Subscriber Database record. On the right-hand side, Employee Information 510 lists information taken from the non-Subscriber Database record of the employee. Information fields that may be too large to show on the Web page are shown on separate pages or pop-up windows by pressing the appropriate button ("RESTRICTIONS", "WORK HISTORY:", "TECHNICAL SKILLS", and "EDUCATION" in FIG. 5).

Under Employee Information 510, is Patent Experience 520, which lists various aspects of the employee's patent experience. At the initial subscription of the employee, these fields may be empty, unless some of this information is stored in the non-Subscriber Database records. If the employee later accesses this page to change some data, these fields would be filled in. FIG. 5 shows the fields filled in, as an example. The first field in Patent Experience 520 in FIG. 4 is "Patents", which lists all proposals, drafts, or issued patents the employee has worked on. This may or may not include patents worked on

at other companies. The status (proposal, draft, filed, or issued) of the various patent projects can be indicated by color, icon, or other means common to the art of Web pages. In FIG. 5, the patent project worked on is listed by the corporation's identification (e.g., "SXR-38291") and further information can be obtained by pressing the "View" button next to the identification. This button could lead to the actual Patent Draft file, which will be discussed further below, a summary, the issued patent, etc.

The second area in Patent Experience 520 after "Patents", is the "Summary", which consolidates certain statistics concerning the employee's patent work. FIG. 5 lists "Patents", which is the number of drafts the employee has worked on, "Proposed", which is the number of patent proposals the employee has made, "Co-invented", which is the number of drafts on which the employee was a co-inventor, "No. of years", which is the number of years the employee has been involved in patent drafting, "No. of hours", which is the number of hours the employee has actually worked on patent drafting, "Writing Ability", which rates the employee's patent drafting writing ability, and "Teamwork", which is a measure of the employee's team

work. None of these fields would be accessible (i.e. changeable) by the employee. Some fields, such as "Patents", "Proposed", "Co-Invented", "No. of Years", and "No. of Hours", would be automatically generated. Other fields, such as "Writing Ability" and "Teamwork", would require some sort of assessment. "Writing ability" could be determined by a designated reviewer, a patent draft committee, the patent agent who finalizes the patent drafts into applications, etc. "Teamwork" could be determined by other co-inventors, the initial inventor, a patent oversight committee, etc. Obviously, these fields ("Writing Ability" and "Teamwork") are very sensitive, and, in other embodiments, they may not be viewed by the employee herself.

On the right-hand side of the Co-Inventor Subscription Web page, under "Subscription Data" 530 as shown in FIG. 5, are the fields that the employee enters herself. The first field "Area(s) of Expertise" allows the employee to list what she believes her areas of expertise. This is allowed in the preferred embodiment because another person with access to this record could view the employee's work history, technical skills, and education in order to assess



the employee's claims of expertise. If the employee wishes, she may explain why those are her areas of expertise in the same field. The second field "Area(s) of Interest" allows the employee to indicate what area she  
5 wants to be further involved in. Putting a category like "Opto-Electronic Switches" in this field guarantees that, if the employee fulfills the other categories, the employee will be placed in the co-inventor pool for patent proposals involving opto-electronic switches. The third field "Level  
10 of Commitment" allows the employee to indicate how much time she is willing to expend as a co-inventor. This field could be highly detailed, supplying vacation times and differing numbers of hours for different weeks, or fairly vague, supplying a total number of hours for the whole  
15 project. In addition, the "Level of Commitment" could supply different amounts of time depending on the type of project.

Once these fields are filled, the Subscriber Database  
20 record is complete and stored in the Subscriber database 114. The records in the Subscriber Database 114 have many of the same fields as the non-Subscriber Database records, as shown in FIG. 4, but also has many additional fields,

such as the fields under "Patent Experience" and  
"Subscription Data" in FIG. 5.

Having shown the types of files stored concerning  
5 subscribers and non-subscribers, the different aspects of  
Idea Development will be discussed in the section below.

## II. Idea Development

10 As discussed in reference to FIG. 2 and 3, the initial  
inventor 100 proposes a patent idea, by means of a computer  
103, connected to the corporate network 105, in the  
preferred embodiment. When entering a patent proposal, the  
initial inventor accesses the opening web page of the  
15 Patent Proposal Web Server 110 and indicates that she  
wishes to propose a patent idea, which, for example, may be  
done by clicking on a "Proposal?" button. The employee is  
then asked for her name, employee id, and an access code,  
and, after the employee enters this information, is  
20 presented with a Patent Proposal Input Web page. As  
mentioned above, these communications between the browser  
client and the Web Server are encrypted using SSL. The  
Patent Proposal Input web page is used as an interface to

create a new Patent Proposal database file in the Patent Proposal Database Server 112. The relationship between the Patent Proposal Input Page and the Patent Proposal Database record is analogous to the relationship between the Subscription Web Page and the Subscriber Database record described above. Therefore, the fields in an actual Patent Proposal Database record will not be discussed, because they correspond to the fields shown in a Patent Proposal Input Web Page.

An example of a Patent Proposal Input Web page is shown in FIG. 6. The exemplary Patent Proposal Input Web page contains various fields, but some of them are optional, and more fields could easily be added. The fields on the left can be categorized as Patent Proposal Description fields 610 and the fields on the right as Co-Inventor Requirements fields 620.

Under the "Patent Proposal Description" in FIG. 6, the "Key" field would be the alphanumeric sequence used to identify this particular record. This would likely be generated by the system. The "Suggested Title" is the title proposed by the initial inventor. The "Field of the

Invention" field gives one or more keywords or keyphrases, such as "Drainage Equipment Improvement", covering the area of the patent idea's application. The "Problem Formulation" field stores a short synopsis of the reasons or motivation for the patent idea. In order to make the system user-friendly, the problem formulation can have bullet categories to choose from, such as "a need for", "a lacking", or "a leap forward", so that the user can quickly put the wording in proper form. The "Brief Description of the Idea" field gives enough information to inform the potential co-inventor pool of the broad outlines of the patent idea. This may include a general background of the invention, as well as a rough sketch of the particular inventive idea. A drawing scanned in by the initial inventor or a computer-generated graphic is also included to further illustrate the proposal. The "Prior Art" field describes previous equipment or inventions that are relevant to the present patent idea. The "Prior Art" field could also contain citations or links to articles or websites that are related to the patent proposal. The "Status" field indicates the stage of development the proposal is in, such as whether the Patent Proposal Committee has approved the patent idea to go forward to the

collaborative stage. The "Project" field indicates a specific project this proposal is related to or part of. In other embodiments, the Database record would have additional fields and the ability to store various types of computer files related to the patent proposal, such as drawings, audio files, Internet links to related material, etc.

Under "Co-Inventor Requirements" in FIG. 6, are the requirements used to search the subscriber database to create the potential co-inventor pool. The "Level of Confidentiality" field stores the level of confidentiality determined by the Security System 150. In this example, the confidentiality levels are internal, confidential, and top confidential. However, there may be many more gradations and conditions in the confidentiality levels. The initial inventor can not modify this field. The "Area(s) of Expertise" field indicates the areas desired by the initial inventor. The "Technical Skills" field indicates what special skills or experience might be needed to assist in drafting the patent, such as a medical specialization. The "Education" field can indicate a level of education, type of education, or whether particular



proposal. In further other embodiments, a patent proposal committee or patent proposal manager may give a final edit to the proposal before it is saved to the Patent Proposal database. Furthermore, the different fields could be weighted by their relative importance. For instance, if the "Technical Skills" were more important than the "Writing Ability" for this particular patent proposal, there would be additional fields applying weighing factors to the corresponding fields.

Returning to FIG. 3, after the initial inventor 100 inputs the appropriate information in the Patent Proposal Input Web page, the input information is transferred over the secure network 155 to the Patent Proposal database 112. At this point, the Patent Proposal Database Server 112 creates a Patent Proposal Database Record for this patent proposal. The Patent Proposal Database Server 112 is responsible for understanding the requirements sent by the initial inventor 100 and choosing which users to solicit with the patent idea. The Patent Proposal Database Server 112 uses the co-inventor requirements and patent proposal description to help select a solicitation list of possible co-inventors. The Security System 150 establishes a

confidentiality level for each Patent Proposal record in  
the Patent Proposal Database Server 112, by determining the  
importance of the idea. The "importance" of an idea may  
have different meanings, depending on the corporation or  
5 entities involved. For instance, it may mean economic  
gain, level of need for that proposed idea in the  
corporation, and it may depend on other issues, such as  
whether or not the corporation is working with other  
corporations in the same area.

10 The Security System 150 may have a central processing  
unit (CPU) which uses a heuristic analysis program to weigh  
these factors and determine an appropriate confidentiality  
level. On the other hand, the Security System 150 may  
15 analyze the data and present a report to a patent proposal  
committee or patent proposal manager, who determines the  
appropriate level of confidentiality based on their  
knowledge of the situation and contact with other managers  
in the corporation. In short, the Security System 150  
20 represents any type of system, computer or human, which  
designates a confidentiality level for a patent proposal.



Now, the modules used by the Patent Proposal Database Server 112 to create a Patent Proposal Database record from the information received from the Patent Proposal Web Server 110 (the information input by the initial inventor 100) will be described in detail with reference to FIG. 7. The process begins when the patent proposal information input at the Patent Proposal Web Server 110 is sent to the Patent Proposal Database Server 112 over the secure network 155. In the preferred embodiment, this information is in encrypted form in order to ensure security. Because the information is encrypted, it is sent to a Decrypting Module 705, which decrypts the information, extracting the original data, which is patent proposal input file 704. The decrypted patent proposal input file 704 is sent to a Security Information Extractor 715, which extracts security information necessary for the Security System 150 to determine the appropriate level of confidentiality. This extracted information 717 is sent to the Security System 150. When the Security System 150 has finished its analysis, it sends the appropriate confidentiality level back to the Patent Proposal Database Server 112, where the Patent Proposal Database Record Formatter 720 receives it.

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The Patent Proposal Database Record Formatter 720 receives the decrypted patent proposal file 704 and the confidentiality level, and combines the decrypted patent proposal input file, the confidentiality level, and other information into the appropriate record format of the Patent Proposal Database Server 112. This newly-created patent proposal database record 735 is sent to the Co-Inventor Solicitor 740, which selects potential co-inventors and solicits them. The Co-Inventor Solicitor 740 searches the Subscriber Database 114, and selects potential co-inventors using the co-inventor characteristics in the patent proposal database record 735. After searching the Subscriber database 114, the Co-Inventor Solicitor 740 searches the non-Subscriber Database 116 for potential co-inventors, using nominal characteristics from the patent proposal database record 735, such as "Technical Skills", "Education", etc. The Co-Inventor Solicitor 740 generates the co-inventor pool from these two searches and appends it to the database record 735.

At this point, the Co-Inventor Solicitor 740 accesses the contact information in the subscriber and non-subscriber database records to send an e-mail notification

to each member of the co-inventor pool. The e-mail notification indicates that a patent proposal has been made and that the receiver should go to a link embedded in the e-mail message. This link will bring the receiver to a login web page on the Patent Proposal Web server, from which the receiver will enter a secured Patent Proposal Pool web page, which will be described below. Once the Co-Inventor Solicitor 740 has transmitted the e-mails to the co-inventor pool, it transmits an e-mail to the initial inventor 100, informing her that the co-inventor pool has been chosen and contacted. The subscriber could be contacted by an e-mail through the network 105, but may be contacted in other ways, such as by mail or bulletin. The message would also contain a link to the Patent Proposal Pool web page. At this point, the patent proposal database record 735 is stored.

When either the initial inventor 100 or a member of the co-inventor pool goes to the Patent Proposal Pool web page, the Patent Proposal Web Server 110 will create the page by accesses the information contained in the corresponding patent proposal database record at the Patent Proposal Database Server 112. An example of a Patent

Proposal Pool web page is shown in FIG. 8. In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the left-hand side of the Patent Proposal web page is similar to the left-hand side of the Patent Proposal Input web page.

5 Although the initial inventor 100 is able to modify the fields on the left-hand side, members of the co-inventor pool that access the page are not be able to modify those fields. On the right-hand side, the initial inventor 100 and members of the co-inventor pool can post messages,  
10 drawings, links, audio files, etc. As shown in FIG. 8, the right-hand side of the Patent Proposal Pool web page allows the user to choose the form of information she wishes to post to the web page by clicking on one of the buttons ("Comment", "Drawing", "Audio file", "Computer file", and  
15 "Note with relevant link"). In FIG. 8, the user has clicked the "Comment" button, and the right-hand side has filled with two sections corresponding to the "Comment" function. On the top is a list showing a shortened form of each "Comment" posted to this Patent Proposal Pool web  
20 page. On the bottom is a window for the user to enter her message to be posted. The Patent Proposal Pool web page in FIG. 8 also enables interactive communication between participants by clicking on the "Videoconference",

"Audioconference", or "Instant Messaging". Windows appropriate to each of those functions would appear on the right-hand side of the web page.

5           Many variations on the Patent Proposal Pool web page are possible. The initial inventor 100 might act as webmaster of the web page, capable of deleting posted information and altering the appearance of the web page. Furthermore, the initial inventor 100 could be empowered to  
10       remove members of the co-inventor pool. Posted information could have different levels of confidentiality so that, for example, project managers could post notes to each other concerning future business strategy, without necessarily informing all the members of the co-inventors pool.

15           In the preferred embodiment, the idea development stage ends when the patent proposal committee authorizes the proposal to enter the patent draft stage. In another embodiment, the initial inventor 100 decides when the  
20       patent proposal is ready to enter the draft stage. In yet another embodiment, the initial inventor 100 and the co-inventor pool reach a consensus as to when the proposal is ready to enter the draft stage. Furthermore, in other

embodiments, the actual co-inventors may be chosen before entering the patent draft stage, so that the proposal may be more fully developed before determining whether it was worthwhile to enter the patent draft stage.

5

Having discussed the various aspects of Idea Development according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the stage of Rights Negotiation will be discussed in the section below.

10

### **III. Rights Negotiation**

In the preferred embodiment, once the patent proposal committee has authorized a patent draft from the patent proposal, the co-inventors for the patent draft must be chosen. This choosing is done in concert with negotiating for the rights in any patent that issues from the draft. At this point, the Patent Proposal Database record concerning the accepted proposal is moved to the Patent Draft Server 140 over the secured network 155. The Patent Draft Server 140 has a higher level of security than the Patent Proposal Database Server 112, and holds all the active patent drafts. A corresponding patent draft file,

15

20

which holds all the information from the originating Patent Proposal Database record as well as many new features, which will be discussed in the next section, is created.

5           In the preferred embodiment, rights negotiation is performed by means of the Rights Negotiation Web Server 120. The information used in and produced by the rights negotiation is stored in the Patent Draft file in the Patent Draft Server 140. In the preferred embodiment,  
10           there are several web pages employed in the rights negotiation stage. A Bidding web page is used by members of the pool of co-inventors to file their bids, which would be stored in the Patent Draft file on the Patent Draft Server 140. A Bid Analysis web page is used by the initial  
15           inventor to access all of the bids, and, in addition, may include embedded code for modeling different possible apportionments of rights in the patent draft. The embedded code, preferably in Java, would produce various models, such as pie charts, bar graphs, etc., representing  
20           different breakdowns of percentages according to the bids, counter-bids, or responses to counter-bids. The Bid Analysis web page also has a screen for viewing e-mail concerning the bidding from various parties.





straight percentage of any monies that result from any  
issued patent.

In the preferred embodiment, the initial inventor  
5 receives the various bids in step 910 and determines  
whether to accept any of the bids in step 915. In other  
embodiments, the initial inventor and the interested  
participants would bid against each other to a patent draft  
committee, which would perform the tasks performed by the  
10 initial inventor in the preferred embodiment. In the  
preferred embodiment, the bids are "sealed", meaning the  
interested members of the co-inventor pool do not know what  
the other members have bid. If the initial inventor does  
accept any of the bids in step 915, it is determined  
15 whether all of the rights in the patent draft have been  
assigned in step 917. If all the rights have been  
allotted, the results of the bidding are finalized in an  
executed agreement in step 950. If interests in the patent  
draft remain unallotted in step 917, or the initial  
20 inventor does not accept any bids in step 915, the initial  
inventor counter-bids in step 920. The members of the co-  
inventor pool still interested in bidding enter responses  
to the counter-bid in step 930. The initial inventor

receives the responses to the counter-bids in step 940 and determines whether to accept any of the responses to the counter-bids in step 940. If the initial inventor does not accept any of the responses, the process starts over at  
5 step 901. If the initial inventor accepts some of the responses to the counter-bid in step 945, it is determined whether there is a remaining interest in the patent draft in step 947. If there is, the process returns to step 901, and bids are solicited from the remaining participants. If  
10 the interests in the patent draft have been exhausted in step 947, the initial inventor and the chosen co-inventors finalize the results in the form of an executed agreement in step 950.

15 In another embodiment, the co-inventors could be chosen first, and then bid between themselves for their percentage of benefits accruing from the patent draft. In a further embodiment, the chosen co-inventors would not have the ability to drop out of the bidding. In other  
20 words, the co-inventors in that embodiment have been effectively assigned the patent draft as a project, but still can determine their interest in it.

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In addition, the Patent Proposal Database record is not transferred to another server in another embodiment, but remains in one server through all the stages, merely increasing its security level when it become a patent draft file.

There are many possible variations on the Rights Negotiation stage. It could be performed by consensus between the chosen co-inventors and the initial inventor. The initial inventor may choose what form of bargaining will be used in this stage in her initial Patent Proposal Input. The results of the rights negotiation, as well as the executed agreement, is stored in the new Patent Draft file in the Patent Draft Server 140.

Having discussed the various steps of Rights Negotiation according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the stage of Patent Drafting will be discussed in the section below.

#### IV. Patent Drafting

Once rights in the patent draft have been apportioned, the actual drafting of the patent begins. As previously

mentioned in section III, there is a Patent Draft file on  
the Patent Draft Server 140. The inventor group,  
consisting of the initial inventor and the final co-  
inventors, access and interact with the file through the  
5 Patent Draft Web Server 130, which has a higher level of  
security than the Patent Proposal Web Server 110.

09:45:41.071200  
10 In the preferred embodiment, a network user would  
discover a "login" opening web page when attempting to  
access a Patent Draft file. The login procedure involves a  
simple name/password combination, but, in other  
embodiments, the procedure could be complex as the relevant  
art allows. After the login procedure, relevant data or  
notes concerning the patent draft will be displayed as well  
15 as buttons leading to various "views", web pages that  
interact or display the Patent Draft file in different  
ways.

A "Draft View" will be described with reference to  
20 FIG. 10. In this view, the actual draft of the document is  
in the center of the screen, as shown by reference number  
1001. The draft, and interaction with the draft, is  
similar to any word-processing program, such as MS Word or

WordPerfect. In the text of the draft, the authorship of sentences and paragraphs is indicated by color, and the color legend is in the lower left-hand corner, as indicated by reference number 1005. In other words, a person

5 looking at this view could tell that co-inventor B wrote the second paragraph on the page because the text of the second paragraph is in red, and the color legend 1005 indicates that red text was entered by co-inventor B on November 3, at 3 p.m. The color legend 1005 will change

10 page by page so as to allow the most flexibility.

Furthermore, members of the inventor group can post messages and comments in the "margin", the area to the left and right of the draft. A comment could refer to a

15 particular section in the draft, as does the comment indicated by reference number 1010. A comment could also be a link to a relevant reference, as shown by reference number 1020. Comments may result in replies, which may result in counter-replies, and so on. In order that the

20 user has access to the history of commentary regarding a passage or general aspect of the draft, the preferred embodiment uses links, as indicated by reference number 1015. 1015 indicates a comment followed by several links,

where each link opens up the complete text of a previous comment. The text could open up into the margin, or be in a pop-up window. The links themselves can appear as text indicating the author/date/time, or subject matter. In  
5 other embodiments, a scroll window could be used in order to scroll between messages in that message thread.

Drawings, diagrams, graphics or pictures, such as diagram 1030, can also be posted in the margin. In order to get a better view of diagram 1030, a user would double-click on  
10 it and a larger sized diagram would form in a pop-up window. Almost any type of file that is storable on computer could be posted in the margins. Again, it should be noted that different levels of confidentiality could be applied to the posted materials, allowing some members of  
15 the inventor group to view some posted material while others could not.

There is also a Contributions view that displays the amount of time each member of the inventor group has spent  
20 on the draft, as well as the quantity of writing each member has supplied. In the preferred embodiment, this view can be accessed by the entire inventor group and other authorized individuals, but, in other embodiments, it can

be restricted to the initial inventor and authorized individuals. The Contributions view shows when each member of the inventor group worked, and what exactly they did. Different types of analysis may be performed in the Contribution view, in much the same manner as the Bid Analysis web page.

A Meeting view is used for interactive meetings between members of the inventor group and authorized individuals. This view enables any of the means for interactive communication using a network, including instant messaging, videoconferencing, and audioconferencing. In the preferred embodiment, the members of the meeting can determine whether to display the Draft view on the computer screen simultaneously with the Meeting view, which would then take the form of an inset window. Meetings would be recorded and archived. If members of the inventor group meet in person to discuss the draft, the meeting could be recorded and archived as well. The archives would be accessible through the Meeting view. Again, it should be noted that different levels of confidentiality could be applied to participation in meetings and access of archives.

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In the preferred embodiment, the patent drafting committee determines when the draft is in condition to be sent to be filed as a patent application or to a patent agent for preparation for filing as a patent application. In other embodiments, the inventor group may decide when the draft is ready by consensus or the initial inventor may have that power. It is also possible to have management personnel make this decision. In an Internet embodiment, the company that is supplying the patent drafting facility may provide an overseer who determines when the patent draft is ready, and who could indicate what needs to be done to put in proper form. Furthermore, in an Internet embodiment, the draft may be turned over to a patent agent for final preparation and review.

Several of the advantages of the preferred embodiment of the present invention are clarified by the above description. First, the preferred embodiment enables individuals to collaborate over long distances. Besides the clear application to Internet collaboration, this ability is especially helpful for multinational corporations which have campuses throughout the world.



Second, the members of the inventor group will not have to leave their computer in order to interact with others in the inventor group. This means time will not be wasted traveling to and from meetings, or waiting to discuss issues with others working on the patent draft.

As mentioned in section I, the different components in FIG. 3 can be understood as functional modules, which can be combined or further divided as necessary for implementing a particular embodiment. The functions may be implemented in software or hardware. Furthermore, certain procedural steps may be performed in a different sequence, according to the needs of different embodiments.

Although all three stages are performed by means of computers on a network in the preferred embodiment, one or more of the stages of the present invention could be performed through non-computer means. For example, the Rights Negotiation stage could be performed in person at a meeting of the initial inventor and the co-inventor pool.

Furthermore, the Rights Negotiation stage could be performed more than once in other embodiments. In other

words, there could be an initial negotiation when the inventor group is chosen and then a final negotiation when the draft is finished, when an analysis of each individual's contribution could be made. In further  
5 embodiments, there might be no Rights Negotiation stage, and the various interests in the patent draft would be assigned by management or determined by the positions of the individuals within the corporation.

10 While the present invention has been described with respect to certain preferred embodiments, it should be understood that the invention is not limited to these particular embodiments, but, on the contrary, the invention is intended to cover all modifications, equivalents, and  
15 alternatives falling within the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for developing an inventive idea comprising the steps of:

creating a subscriber list, said subscriber list comprised of subscriber records, each of said subscriber records having at least a subscriber name, subscriber contact information, and subscriber qualifications;

receiving a proposal of an inventive idea by an initial inventor, said patent proposal including desired co-inventor qualifications;

creating a set of desired co-inventor qualifications; and

creating a pool of co-inventors by searching for subscriber records in the subscriber list with subscriber qualifications matching the desired co-inventor qualifications.

2. The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

contacting subscribers in the pool of co-inventors to inform said subscribers of the inventive idea proposal; and

providing a forum for the pool of co-inventors and the initial inventor to communicate and to further develop the inventive idea proposal.

5           3.    The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the subscriber list is maintained as a computer database.

10           4.    The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the inventive idea proposal is transmitted over a network, said network including at least a terminal used by the initial inventor and a receiving terminal for receiving the inventive idea proposal.

15           5.    The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the step of creating a pool of co-inventors is performed by an Inventive Idea Proposal Server.

20           6.    The method as recited in claim 2 wherein the step of contacting subscribers is performed over a network, said network having subscriber terminals, each of said subscriber terminals being connected to said network and accessible by one or more subscribers in the pool of co-inventors.

7. The method as recited in claim 2 wherein the step of providing a forum is performed over a network by an Inventive Idea Proposal Forum Server, said network having  
5 subscriber terminals, each of said subscriber terminals being connected to said network and accessible by one or more subscribers in the pool of co-inventors.

8. The method as recited in claim 7 wherein the step  
10 of providing a forum further comprises:

providing at least one web page as the forum of the initial inventor and the pool of co-inventors;

wherein a web page is a file viewable in a World Wide Web browser; and

15 wherein the Inventive Idea Proposal Forum Server acts as web server for said at least one web page.

9. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of creating a subscriber list comprises:

20 contacting, by an individual on a network, a Subscriber Database;

creating a subscriber record for the individual on the Subscriber Database;

inputting, by the individual, information including,  
but not limited to, name, contact information, and  
qualifications into the subscriber record; and  
storing the subscriber record on the Subscriber  
5 Database.

10. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
step of creating a subscriber list comprises:

establishing non-subscriber criteria;

10 using said non-subscriber criteria to select  
individuals;

creating non-subscriber records for said selected  
individuals, each of said non-subscriber records containing  
information about a selected individual; and

15 maintaining said non-subscriber records on a non-  
Subscriber Database.

11. The method as recited in claim 10, further  
comprising the step of:

20 adding individuals to the created pool of co-inventors  
by searching said non-Subscriber Database for non-  
subscribers that match desired co-inventor qualifications.

12. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein each subscriber record includes a confidentiality level associated with the subscriber.

5 13. The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the step of creating a set of desired co-inventor qualifications comprises the step of:

establishing a confidentiality level for the inventive idea proposal;

10 wherein said confidentiality level is used to eliminate a subscriber from the pool of co-inventors if the confidentiality level of the subscriber does not meet the confidentiality level of the inventive idea proposal.

15 14. A system for developing an inventive idea comprising:

a network;

an Inventive Idea Proposal Server for receiving an inventive idea proposal over the network, and for creating  
20 a pool of co-inventors from a group of subscribers;

a terminal for transmitting an inventive idea proposal to the Inventive Idea Proposal Server over the network; and

a Subscriber Database for storing subscriber records,  
each of said subscriber records having at least a  
subscriber name, subscriber contact information, and  
subscriber qualifications;

5            wherein said inventive idea proposal includes  
qualifications desired in a co-inventor; and

          wherein the Inventive Idea Proposal Server creates the  
pool of co-inventors by matching the desired subscriber  
qualifications with subscriber records having similar  
10        subscriber qualifications.

15            15. The system as recited in claim 14, wherein the  
Inventive Idea Proposal Server sends a message to the pool  
of co-inventors over the network, said message informing  
each subscriber in the pool of co-inventors of the  
inventive idea proposal.

20            16. The system as recited in claim 14, wherein the  
Inventive Idea Proposal Server creates an inventive idea  
proposal file from the inventive idea proposal, said  
inventive idea proposal file including the inventive idea  
proposal, a list of members of the pool of co-inventors,



and data generated by the initial inventor and the pool of co-inventors.

17. The system as recited in claim 16, wherein the Inventive Idea Proposal Server further comprises:

a means by which an inventor group can access the inventive idea proposal file over the network; and

a means by which the inventor group can add data to the inventive proposal file over the network;

wherein the inventor group comprises the initial inventor and the pool of co-inventors.

18. The system as recited in claim 16, further comprising:

an Inventive Idea Proposal Web Server for providing at least one web page which is accessible over the network, said at least one web page comprising a means by which an inventor group can access the inventive idea proposal file over the network and a means by which the inventor group can add data to the inventive idea proposal file over the network;

wherein the inventor group comprises the initial inventor and the pool of co-inventors; and

wherein a web page is a file viewable in a World Wide Web browser.

19. The system as recited in claim 14, further  
5 comprising:

a terminal for transmitting, by an individual on the network, subscriber information over the network to the Subscriber Database;

wherein at least one subscriber record is created from  
10 the subscriber information.

20. The system as recited in claim 14, further comprising:

a non-Subscriber Database for storing non-subscriber  
15 records, each of said non-subscriber records corresponding to an individual, each of said individuals being selected using said non-subscriber criteria to select individuals.

21. The system as recited in claim 20, wherein the  
20 Inventive Idea Proposal Server adds individuals to the created pool of co-inventors by searching said non-Subscriber Database for non-subscribers that match desired co-inventor qualifications.

22. The system as recited in claim 14, wherein each subscriber record includes a confidentiality level associated with the subscriber.

5

23. The system as recited in claim 22, wherein the Inventive Idea Proposal Server uses confidentiality levels in subscriber records to eliminate subscribers whose confidentiality level does not meet a confidentiality level of the inventive idea proposal.

10

24. A method for at least two inventors to negotiate for the rights in a patent draft, said patent draft embodying an invention jointly created by said at least two inventors, comprising the steps of:

15

a) soliciting bids from a pool of potential co-inventors;

b) receiving bids from the pool of potential co-inventors;

20

c) determining whether to accept any of the received bids;

d) offering counter-bids to members of the pool of potential co-inventors whose bids were not accepted;

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e) receiving responses to the offered counter-bids;  
f) determining whether to accept any of the  
responses; and  
g) repeating steps (a)-(f) until a list of co-  
inventors is acceptable;

wherein a right in a patent draft is any present or  
future interest or benefit from said patent draft; and

wherein, when a bid, counter-bid, or response of a  
member of the pool of potential co-inventors is accepted,  
the member is removed from the pool of potential co-  
inventors and placed on the list of co-inventors.

25. The method as recited in claim 24, wherein steps  
(a), (b), (d), (e) are performed by a Rights Negotiation  
Server over a network, said network being connected to  
terminals accessible by the pool of potential co-inventors.

26. The method as recited in claim 24, wherein steps  
(c) and (f) are performed by a heuristic computer program.

27. The method as recited in claim 24, wherein steps  
(c) and (f) are performed by an initial inventor, said

initial inventor being one of the at least two inventors  
and having originated a proposal for the patent draft.

28. The method as recited in claim 24, wherein steps  
5 (c) and (f) are performed before drafting the patent draft.

29. The method as recited in claim 24, wherein steps  
(c) and (f) are performed after drafting the patent draft.

30. A system for at least two inventors to negotiate  
10 for the rights in a patent draft, comprising:

a Rights Negotiation Server for soliciting bids from a  
pool of potential co-inventors, for receiving bids from the  
pool of potential co-inventors, and for receiving responses  
15 to counter-bids; and

a network connecting the Rights Negotiation Server  
with at least one terminal accessible by the pool of  
potential co-inventors;

wherein a right in a patent draft is any present or  
20 future interest or benefit from said patent draft; and

wherein, when a bid, counter-bid, or response of a  
member of the pool of potential co-inventors is accepted,

the member is removed from the pool of potential co-inventors and placed on the list of co-inventors.

31. The system as recited in claim 30, wherein a heuristic computer program determines if a bid or a response to a counter-bid is acceptable and generates counter-bids.

32. The system as recited in claim 30, wherein an initial inventor determines if a bid or a response to a counter-bid is acceptable and generates counter-bids, said initial inventor being one of the at least two inventors and having originated a proposal for the patent draft.

33. The system as recited in claim 30, wherein said Rights Negotiation Server solicits bids from a pool of potential co-inventors, receives bids from the pool of potential co-inventors, and receives responses to counter-bids before drafting the patent draft.

34. The system as recited in claim 30, wherein said Rights Negotiation Server solicits bids from a pool of potential co-inventors, receives bids from the pool of

potential co-inventors, and receives responses to counter-bids after drafting the patent draft.

35. A method for drafting a patent application  
5 comprising the steps of:

writing, by members of a pool of co-inventors,  
portions of a patent draft to a patent draft file in a  
Patent Draft Server; and

posting, by members of a pool of co-inventors,  
10 information concerning the patent draft to the patent draft  
file;

wherein the Patent Draft Server is connected to a  
network and members of the pool of co-inventors have access  
to terminals that are connected to the network; and

15 wherein the patent draft file comprises at least a  
list of co-inventors, a word-processing file of the patent  
draft, and the posted information concerning the patent  
draft.

20 36. The method as recited in claim 35, wherein the  
posted information is computer-readable files, including,  
but not limited to, text, word-processing files, graphics  
files, audio files, and video files.

37. The method as recited in claim 35, further comprising the step of:

creating at least one web page for the pool of co-inventors to use to access the patent draft file;

wherein the at least one web page provides a means for the pool of co-inventors and the initial inventor to post information concerning the patent draft to the patent draft file; and

wherein additions, deletions, and edits of the patent draft file are recorded in the patent draft file.

38. The method as recited in claim 35, further comprising the step of:

creating at least one web page for the pool of co-inventors to use to access patent draft files;

wherein the at least one web page is stored on a Patent Draft Web Server;

wherein the Patent Draft Web Server provides a means for the pool of co-inventors and the initial inventor to post information concerning the patent draft to the patent draft file; and



wherein additions, deletions, and edits of the patent draft file are recorded in the patent draft file.

39. A system for drafting a patent application  
5 comprising:

a plurality of terminals connected to a network, at least one of said terminal being accessible to members of a pool of co-inventors;

a Patent Draft Server for storing a patent draft file;  
10 and

a Patent Draft Web Server connected to said network and connected to said Patent Draft Server for providing access to said patent draft file;

wherein the patent draft file comprises at least a  
15 list of co-inventors, a word-processing file of a patent draft application, and posted information concerning the patent draft application; and

wherein members of a pool of co-inventors write portions of the patent draft application and post  
20 information concerning the patent draft application to the patent draft file by means for the Patent Draft Web Server.

40. A method of creating a patent draft application comprising the steps of:

a) creating a subscriber list, said subscriber list comprised of subscriber records, each of said subscriber records having at least a subscriber name, subscriber contact information, and subscriber qualifications;

b) receiving a proposal of a patent idea by an initial inventor, said patent proposal including desired co-inventor qualifications;

c) creating a pool of potential co-inventors by searching for subscriber records in the subscriber list with subscriber qualifications matching the desired co-inventor qualifications;

d) contacting subscribers in the pool of potential co-inventors to inform said subscribers of the patent proposal;

e) providing a forum for the pool of potential co-inventors and the initial inventor to communicate and to further develop the patent proposal;

f) determining, at any time, co-inventors from the pool of potential co-inventors and the initial inventor, said co-inventors being contributors to a patent draft application based on the patent proposal;

g) apportioning, at any time, rights in the patent draft application among the co-inventors, wherein a right in a patent draft application is any present or future interest or benefit from said patent draft application;

5 h) writing, by at least one co-inventor, the patent draft application; and

i) posting, by at least one co-inventor, information concerning the patent draft so that at least one other co-inventor may access the posted information.

10

41. The method as recited in claim 40, wherein step (g) comprises:

soliciting bids from the pool of potential co-inventors;

15

receiving bids from the pool of potential co-inventors;

determining whether to accept any of the received bids;

20

offering counter-bids to members of the pool of potential co-inventors whose bids were not accepted;

receiving responses to the offered counter-bids;

determining whether to accept any of the responses;

and

repeating the above steps until a list of co-inventors is acceptable;

wherein, when a bid, counter-bid, or response of a member of the pool of potential co-inventors is accepted, the member is removed from the pool of potential co-inventors and placed on the list of co-inventors.

42. A system for creating a patent draft application comprising:

a Subscriber Database for storing subscriber records, each of said subscriber records having at least a subscriber name, subscriber contact information, and subscriber qualifications;

a Patent Proposal Server for receiving a patent proposal from an initial inventor, said patent proposal including qualifications desired in a co-inventor, for creating a pool of potential co-inventors from a group of subscribers by matching the desired co-inventor qualifications with subscriber records having similar subscriber qualifications, and for creating a patent proposal file from the patent proposal, said patent proposal file including at least the patent proposal, a list of the members in the pool of potential co-inventors,

and data generated by the pool of potential co-inventors  
and the initial inventor;

a Rights Negotiation Server for soliciting bids from a  
pool of potential co-inventors, for receiving bids from the  
5 pool of potential co-inventors, and for receiving responses  
to counter-bids, whereby the pool of potential co-inventors  
and the initial inventor negotiate for rights in a patent  
draft made from a patent proposal, thereby creating a list  
of co-inventors; and

10 a Patent Draft Server for storing a patent draft file,  
said patent draft file including at least a list of co-  
inventors, a word-processing file of a patent draft  
application, and posted information concerning the patent  
draft application, whereby members of a pool of co-  
15 inventors and the initial inventor write portions of the  
patent draft application and post information concerning  
the patent draft application;

wherein a right in a patent draft is any present or  
future interest or benefit from said patent draft; and

20 wherein, when a bid, counter-bid, or response of a  
member of the pool of potential co-inventors is accepted,  
the member is removed from the pool of potential co-  
inventors and placed on the list of co-inventors.

43. The system as recited in claim 42, further comprising:

a network;

5 a terminal for transmitting the patent proposal to the Patent Proposal Server over the network; and

at least one terminal connected to a network, said at least one terminal being accessible to members of the pool of potential co-inventors.

10 44. The system as recited in claim 43, further comprising:

a Patent Proposal Web Server connected to the network for providing access to the patent proposal file by means of at least one web page;

15 wherein a web page is a file viewable in a World Wide Web browser; and

wherein members of the pool of potential co-inventors post information concerning the patent proposal to the patent proposal file by using the at least one web page on the Patent Proposal Web Server.

45. The system as recited in claim 43, further comprising:

a Patent Draft Web Server connected to the network for providing access to the patent draft file by means of at

5 least one web page;

wherein a web page is a file viewable in a World Wide Web browser; and

wherein members on the list of co-inventors write portions of the patent draft application and post  
10 information concerning the patent draft application to the patent draft file by using the at least one web page on the Patent Draft Web Server.

46. A method of doing business by providing an  
15 inventive idea development service, comprising the steps of:

creating a subscriber list, said subscriber list comprised of subscriber records, each of said subscriber records having at least a subscriber name, subscriber  
20 contact information, and subscriber qualifications;

receiving a proposal of an inventive idea by an initial inventor, said inventive idea proposal including desired co-inventor qualifications; and

creating a pool of potential co-inventors by searching for subscriber records in the subscriber list with subscriber qualifications matching the desired co-inventor qualifications.

5

47. The method of doing business as recited in claim 46, further comprising the step of:

contacting members of the pool of potential co-inventors to inform said members of the inventive idea proposal.

10

48. The method of doing business as recited in claim 46, further comprising the step of:

providing a forum for the pool of co-inventors and the initial inventor to communicate and to further develop the inventive idea proposal.

15

49. The method of doing business as recited in claim 46, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from at least one subscriber, said fee entitling said at least one subscriber to subscribe to the subscriber list.

20



50. The method of doing business as recited in claim 46, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from the initial inventor, said fee entitling said initial inventor to obtain information  
5 concerning the pool of potential co-inventors.

51. The method of doing business as recited in claim 46, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from a corporation for creating the  
10 subscriber list using a subscriber criteria supplied by the corporation, for accepting inventive idea proposals using an inventive idea proposal criteria supplied by the corporation, and for creating a pool of potential co-inventors using a potential co-inventor criteria supplied  
15 by the corporation.

52. A method of doing business by providing an inventive idea development service to a corporation for a fee, comprising the steps of:

20 providing a secured forum on a network for a pool of potential co-inventors and an initial inventor to communicate and to further develop an inventive idea proposal.

53. The method of doing business as recited in Claim  
52, further comprising the step of:

providing at least one web page as means for the  
5 secured forum of the initial inventor and the pool of  
potential co-inventors;

wherein a web page is a file viewable in a World Wide  
Web browser.

10 54. The method of doing business as recited in claim  
52, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from at least one member of the pool  
of potential co-inventors, said fee entitling said at least  
one member to access the secured forum on the network.

15 55. The method of doing business as recited in claim  
52, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from the initial inventor, said fee  
entitling said initial inventor to access the secured forum  
20 on the network.

56. The method of doing business as recited in claim  
52, wherein the secured forum is on the Internet.

57. A method of doing business by providing a service  
by which at least two potential co-inventors negotiate for  
the rights in a patent application draft, said patent draft  
5 embodying an invention jointly created by said at least two  
inventors, comprising the steps of:

providing a secured forum on a network for a pool of  
potential co-inventors;

negotiating, by members of the pool of potential co-  
10 inventors, for the rights in a patent application draft,  
using the secured forum; and

establishing, when the negotiation for rights has  
completed, a list of co-inventors from the pool of  
potential co-inventors;

15 wherein a right in a patent draft is any present or  
future interest or benefit from said patent draft.

58. The method of doing business as recited in Claim  
57, further comprising the step of:

20 providing at least one web page as means for the  
secured forum to communicate and to negotiate for the  
rights in a patent application draft;

wherein a web page is a file viewable in a World Wide Web browser.

59. The method of doing business as recited in claim  
5 57, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from at least one member of the pool of potential co-inventors, said fee entitling said at least one member to access the secured forum on the network.

10 60. The method of doing business as recited in claim 57, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from a corporation for providing the secured forum on the network.

15 61. The method of doing business as recited in claim 57, wherein the step of negotiating further comprises the steps of:

a) soliciting bids from a pool of potential co-inventors;

20 b) receiving bids from the pool of potential co-inventors;

c) determining whether to accept any of the received bids;

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d) offering counter-bids to members of the pool of potential co-inventors whose bids were not accepted;

e) receiving responses to the offered counter-bids;

f) determining whether to accept any of the

5 responses; and

g) repeating steps (a)-(f) until a list of co-inventors is established.

62. A method of doing business by providing a patent application drafting service, comprising the steps of:

10 providing a secured forum on a network for a pool of co-inventors;

writing, by members of a pool of co-inventors, portions of a patent draft to a patent draft file

15 accessible through the secured forum; and

posting, by members of a pool of co-inventors, information concerning the patent draft to the patent draft file.

20 63. The method of doing business as recited in claim 62, further comprising the step of:

providing at least one web page as means for the secured forum of the pool of co-inventors;

wherein a web page is a file viewable in a World Wide Web browser.

64. The method of doing business as recited in claim 62, wherein the patent draft file comprises at least a list of co-inventors, a word-processing file of the patent draft, and the posted information concerning the patent draft.

65. The method of doing business as recited in claim 62, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from at least one member of the pool of co-inventors, said fee entitling said at least one member to access the secured forum on the network.

66. The method of doing business as recited in claim 62, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from a corporation for providing the secured forum on the network.

67. A method of doing business by providing a patent proposal and patent application drafting service, comprising the steps of:

creating a subscriber list, said subscriber list  
comprised of subscriber records, each of said subscriber  
records having at least a subscriber name, subscriber  
contact information, and subscriber qualifications;

5 receiving a proposal of a patent idea by an initial  
inventor, said patent proposal including desired co-  
inventor qualifications;

10 creating a pool of potential co-inventors by searching  
for subscriber records in the subscriber list with  
subscriber qualifications matching the desired co-inventor  
qualifications;

providing a secured patent proposal forum on a  
network;

15 communicating and further developing, by the pool of  
potential co-inventors and the initial inventor, the patent  
proposal using the secured patent proposal forum;

providing a secured rights negotiation forum on a  
network for a pool of potential co-inventors;

20 negotiating, by members of the pool of potential co-  
inventors, for the rights in a patent application draft,  
using the secured rights negotiation forum;

establishing, when the negotiation for rights has  
completed, a list of co-inventors from the pool of  
potential co-inventors and the initial inventor;

providing a secured patent draft forum on a network  
5 for the members of the list of co-inventors;

writing, by members of the list of co-inventors,  
portions of a patent draft to a patent draft file  
accessible through the secured patent draft forum; and

posting, by members of a pool of co-inventors,  
10 information concerning the patent draft to the patent draft  
file;

wherein a right in a patent draft is any present or  
future interest or benefit from said patent draft.

15 68. The method of doing business as recited in claim  
67, further comprising the step of:

providing at least one web page as means for the  
secured patent proposal forum of the initial inventor and  
the pool of potential co-inventors;

20 wherein a web page is a file viewable in a World Wide  
Web browser.



69. The method of doing business as recited in claim  
67, further comprising the step of:

providing at least one web page as means for the  
secured rights negotiation forum of the initial inventor  
5 and the pool of potential co-inventors;

wherein a web page is a file viewable in a World Wide  
Web browser.

70. The method of doing business as recited in claim  
10 67, further comprising the step of:

providing at least one web page as means for the  
secured patent draft forum of the initial inventor and the  
members of the list of co-inventors;

wherein a web page is a file viewable in a World Wide  
15 Web browser.

71. The method of doing business as recited in claim  
67, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from at least one subscriber, said fee  
20 entitling said at least one subscriber to subscribe to the  
subscriber list.

72. The method of doing business as recited in claim  
67, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from the initial inventor, said fee  
entitling said initial inventor to obtain information  
5 concerning the pool of potential co-inventors.

73. The method of doing business as recited in claim  
67, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from a corporation for creating the  
10 subscriber list using a subscriber criteria supplied by the  
corporation, for accepting patent proposals using a patent  
proposal criteria supplied by the corporation, and for  
creating a pool of potential co-inventors using a potential  
co-inventor criteria supplied by the corporation.

74. The method of doing business as recited in claim  
67, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from at least one member of the pool  
of potential co-inventors, said fee entitling said at least  
20 one member to access the secured patent proposal forum on  
the network.

75. The method of doing business as recited in claim  
67, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from the initial inventor, said fee  
entitling said initial inventor to access the secured  
5 patent proposal forum on the network.

76. The method of doing business as recited in claim  
67, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from a corporation for providing the  
10 secured patent proposal forum on the network.

77. The method of doing business as recited in claim  
67, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from at least one member of the pool  
15 of potential co-inventors, said fee entitling said at least  
one member to access the secured rights negotiation forum  
on the network.

78. The method of doing business as recited in claim  
20 67, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from the initial inventor, said fee  
entitling said initial inventor to access the secured  
rights negotiation forum on the network.

79. The method of doing business as recited in claim  
67, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from a corporation for providing the  
5 secured rights negotiation forum on the network.

80. The method of doing business as recited in claim  
67, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from at least one member of the list  
10 of co-inventors, said fee entitling said at least one  
member to access the secured patent draft forum on the  
network.

81. The method of doing business as recited in claim  
15 67, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from a corporation for providing the  
secured patent draft forum on the network.

82. A computer system for developing an inventive  
20 idea, the computer system comprising:

at least one computer-readable memory including:

code that maintains a database structure of a  
subscriber list, said subscriber list comprised of

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subscriber records, each of said subscriber records  
having at least a subscriber name, subscriber  
contact information, and subscriber qualifications;

code that receives a proposal of an inventive  
idea by an initial inventor, said inventive idea  
proposal including desired co-inventor  
qualifications;

code that searches for subscriber records in the  
subscriber list with subscriber qualifications  
matching a set of desired co-inventor qualifications  
for the inventive idea proposal; and

code that creates a pool of co-inventors from a  
set of subscriber records that match a set of  
desired co-inventor qualifications.

83. The system as recited in claim 82, the computer  
system further comprising

at least one of computer-readable memory including:

code that maintains an inventive idea proposal  
forum, said inventive idea proposal forum being accessible  
to the pool of co-inventors, and said inventive idea  
proposal forum allowing the pool of co-inventors to post  
information to an inventive idea proposal file.

84. A computer system for at least two inventors to negotiate for the rights in a patent draft, the computer system comprising:

- 5           at least one computer-readable memory including:
- code for soliciting bids over a network from a pool of potential co-inventors;
  - code for receiving bids over a network from the pool of potential co-inventors;
  - 10           code for offering counter-bids over a network to members of the pool of potential co-inventors whose bids were not accepted; and
  - code for receiving responses over a network to the offered counter-bids;
- 15           wherein a right in a patent draft is any present or future interest or benefit from said patent draft; and
- wherein, when a bid, counter-bid, or response of a member of the pool of potential co-inventors is accepted, the member is removed from the pool of potential co-
  - 20           inventors and placed on the list of co-inventors.

85. A computer system for drafting a patent application, the computer system comprising:

at least one computer-readable memory including:

code that maintains a database structure  
containing patent draft files, each of said patent  
draft files comprising at least a list of co-  
inventors, a word-processing file of a patent draft  
application, and posted information concerning the  
patent draft application;

code that allows members of a list of co-  
inventors to write to and edit a corresponding word  
processing file;

code that allows members of a list of co-  
inventors to post information in the form of  
computer files to a corresponding patent draft file;

code that tracks all interaction between members  
of a list of co-inventors and a corresponding patent  
draft file;

code that stores interaction records in a  
corresponding patent draft file; and

code that provides at least one graphical user  
interface (GUI) for the patent draft files, said at  
least one GUI for members of a list of co-inventors  
to edit a corresponding word-processing file, post

information to a corresponding patent draft file,  
and view corresponding interaction records.

86. A computer system for creating a patent

5 application, the computer system comprising:

at least one computer-readable memory including:

code that maintains a database structure of a  
subscriber list, said subscriber list comprised of  
subscriber records, each of said subscriber records  
10 having at least a subscriber name, subscriber  
contact information, and subscriber qualifications;

code that receives a proposal of a patent idea by  
an initial inventor, said patent proposal including  
desired co-inventor qualifications;

15 code that searches for subscriber records in the  
subscriber list with subscriber qualifications  
matching a set of desired co-inventor qualifications  
for the patent proposal;

code that creates a pool of potential co-  
20 inventors from a set of subscriber records that  
match a set of desired co-inventor qualifications;

code that provides a forum for the pool of  
potential co-inventors and the initial inventor to



communicate and to further develop the patent proposal;

code that enables the determination, at any time, of a list of co-inventors from the pool of potential co-inventors and the initial inventor, said co-inventors being contributors to a patent draft application based on the patent proposal;

code that enables the apportionment, at any time, of rights in the patent draft application among co-inventors, wherein a right in a patent draft application is any present or future interest or benefit from said patent draft application;

code that maintains a database structure containing patent draft files, each of said patent draft files comprising at least a list of co-inventors, a word-processing file of a patent draft application, and posted information concerning the patent draft application;

code that allows members of a list of co-inventors to write to and edit a corresponding word processing file;



code for offering counter-bids over a network to  
members of the pool of potential co-inventors whose  
bids were not accepted; and

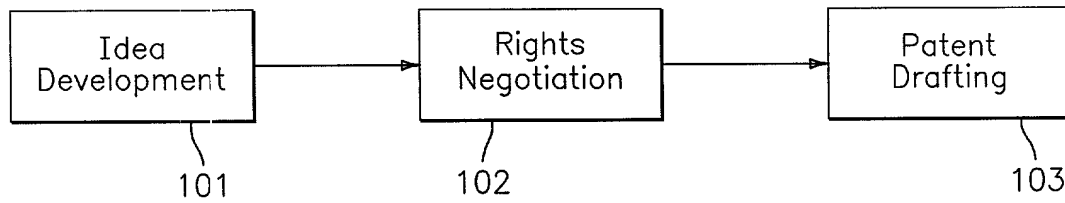
code for receiving responses over a network to  
the offered counter-bids;

wherein, when a bid, counter-bid, or response of a  
member of the pool of potential co-inventors is accepted,  
the member is removed from the pool of potential co-  
inventors and placed on the list of co-inventors.

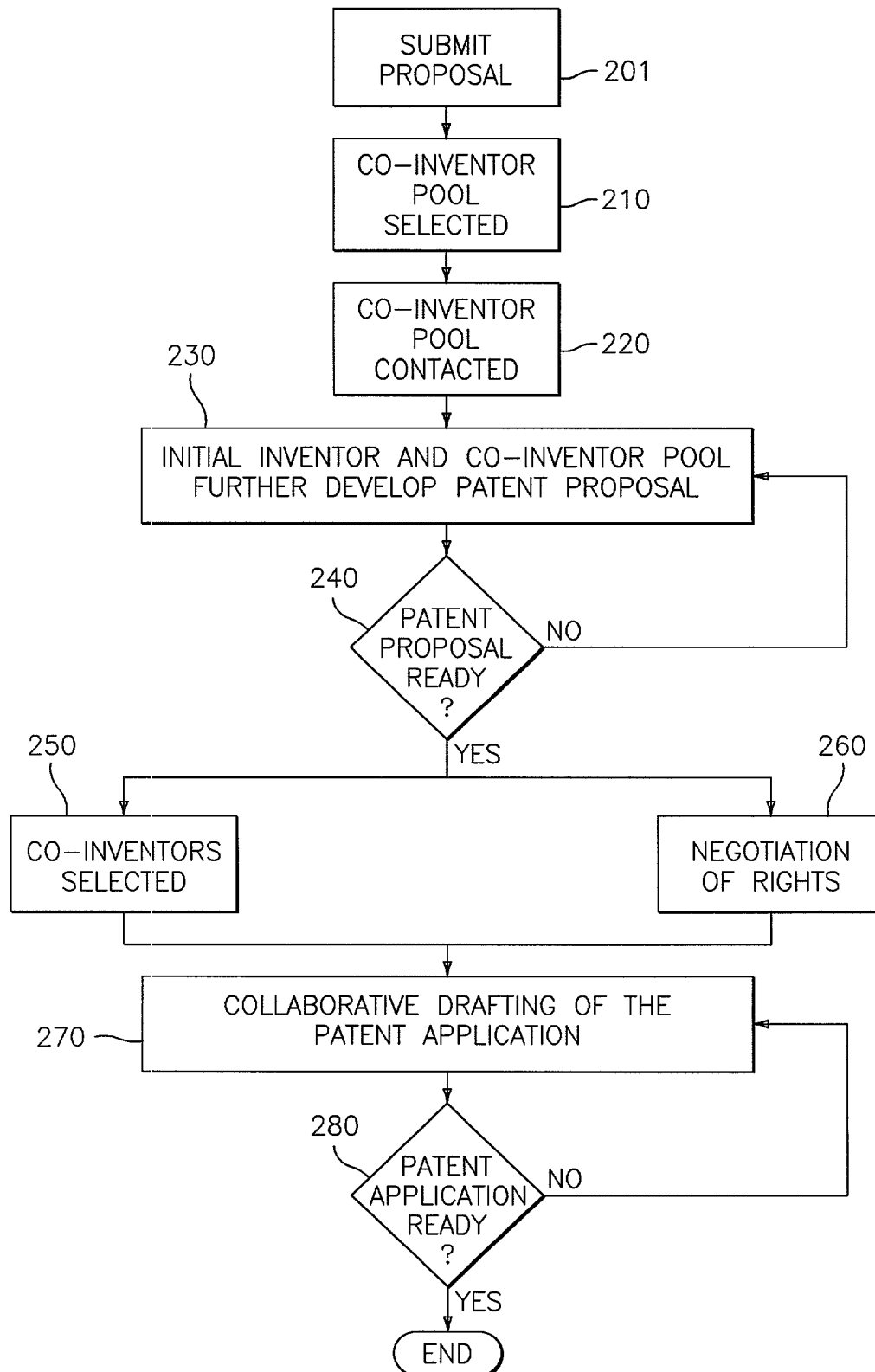
WEB-BASED SECURED FORUM FOR  
COLLABORATIVE INVENTIONS CREATION

ABSTRACT

5           A system and method is proposed for bringing together  
potential co-inventors, developing a patent proposal,  
negotiating for rights in a patent draft, and writing a  
patent draft. In the system and method, a subscriber list  
is created and kept in a Subscriber Database. After a  
10   patent proposal is received from an initial inventor, a  
pool of potential co-inventors is created by a Patent  
Proposal Server, which stores a patent proposal file. A  
Patent Proposal Web Server provides a forum for the initial  
inventor and the pool of potential co-inventors to further  
15   develop the patent proposal. Once it is determined that  
the patent proposal is ready to enter the patent drafting  
stage, the patent proposal becomes a patent draft file on a  
Patent Draft Server and the pool of potential co-inventors  
and the initial inventor negotiate for rights in the patent  
20   draft by means of a Rights Negotiation Server. When the  
rights in the patent draft are allotted, the pool of co-  
inventors and the initial inventor co-write the patent  
draft by means of a Patent Draft Web Server. A Security  
System maintains appropriate levels of security for the  
25   various files and communications in the system.



*FIG. 1*



**FIG. 2**

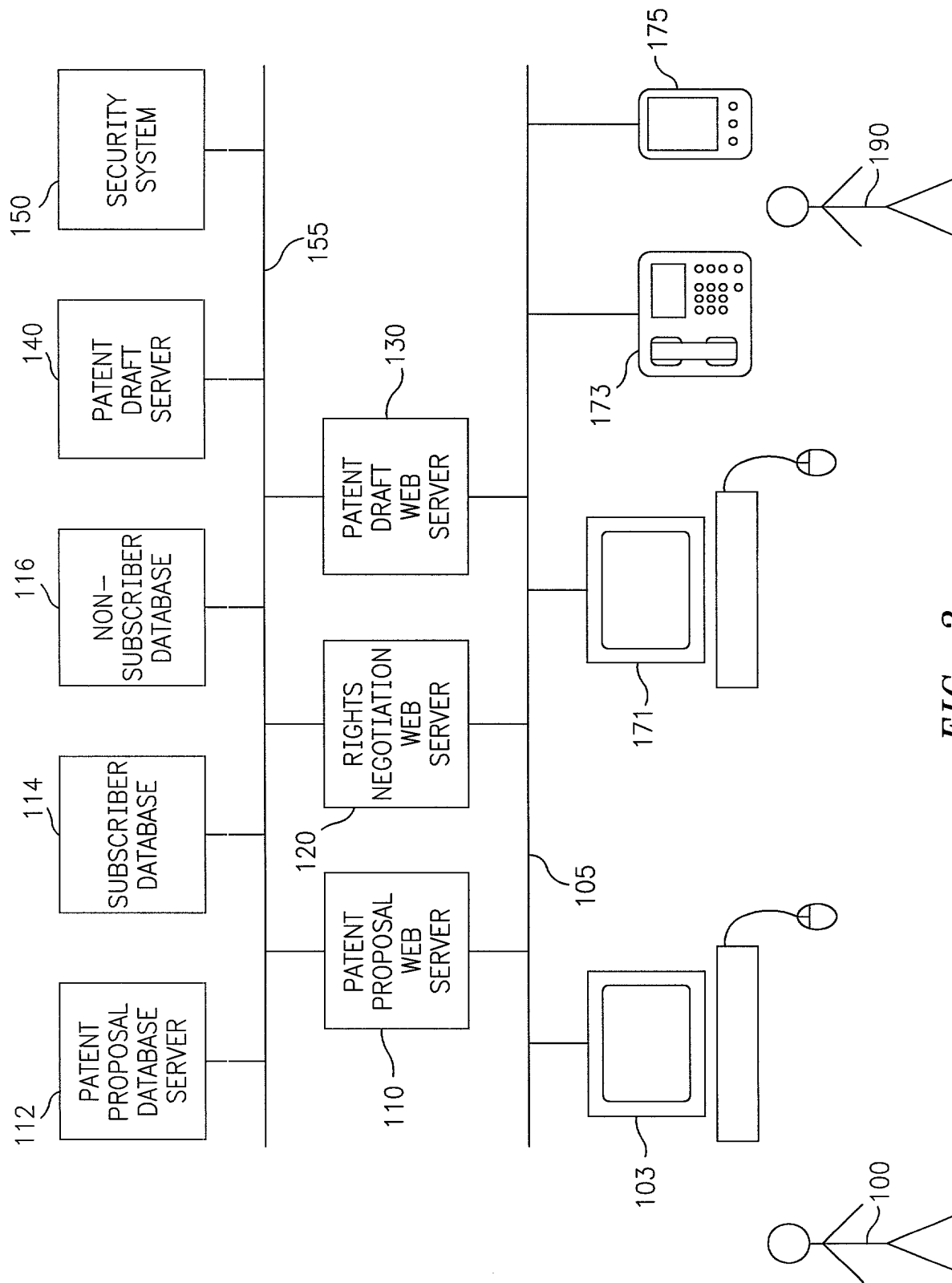


FIG. 3

EMPLOYEE ID
NAME
POSITION
DEPARTMENT
WORK LOCATION
WORK CONTACT INFORMATION
CONFIDENTIALITY LEVEL
RESTRICTIONS
WORK HISTORY
TECHNICAL SKILLS
EDUCATION

*FIG. 4*



530

SUBSCRIPTION DATA

AREA(S) OF EXPERTISE

PROGRAMMING  
ELECTRONICS

AREA(S) OF INTEREST

OPTO-ELECTRONIC SWITCHES

LEVEL OF COMMITMENT

30 HOURS OVER 2 MO. PERIOD

(POST)

EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

510

NAME: EDNA FERNBACH

POSITION: SENIOR PROGRAMMER

DEPARTMENT: O.S. DEVELOPMENT

LOCATION: ROOM 571  
BLDG. C  
LA JOLLA

CONTACT: edna@company.net  
(619)555-1212

CONFIDENTIALITY LEVEL: 5A

(RESTRICTIONS) (WORK HISTORY)

(TECHNICAL SKILLS) (EDUCATION)

PATENT EXPERIENCE

520

PATENTS:

SXR-38291 (VIEW)  
PQN-50035 (VIEW)  
STP-68991 (VIEW)

SUMMARY- PATENTS:  
PROPOSED: 3  
CO-INVENTED 2  
NO. OF YEARS: 5  
WRITING ABILITY: 32  
TEAMWORK: FAIR  
FAIR

FIG. 5

610 → PATENT PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION

KEY:

SUGGESTED TITLE:

FIELD OF INVENTION

PROBLEM FORMULATION

☐ A NEED FOR...  
☐ A LACKING OF...  
☐ A LEAP FORWARD IN...  
☐ OTHER...

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF IDEA

STATUS:  PRIOR ART

PROJECT:

CO-INVENTOR REQUIRMENTS → 620

AREA(S) OF EXPERTISE:

TECHNICAL SKILLS;

EDUCATION:

WRITING ABILITY:

PATENT EXPERIENCE:

LEVEL OF CONFIDENTIALITY:

FIG. 6

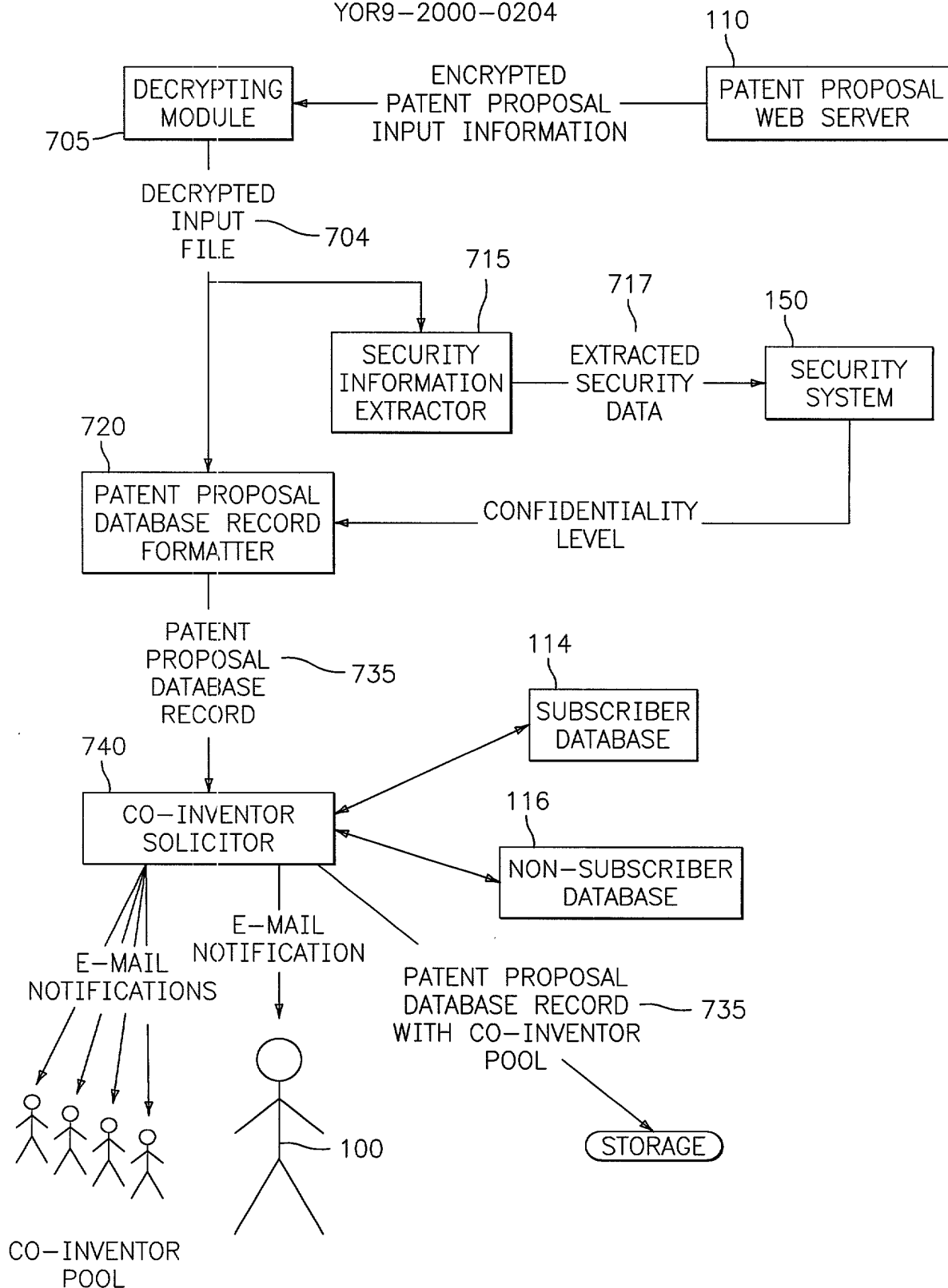
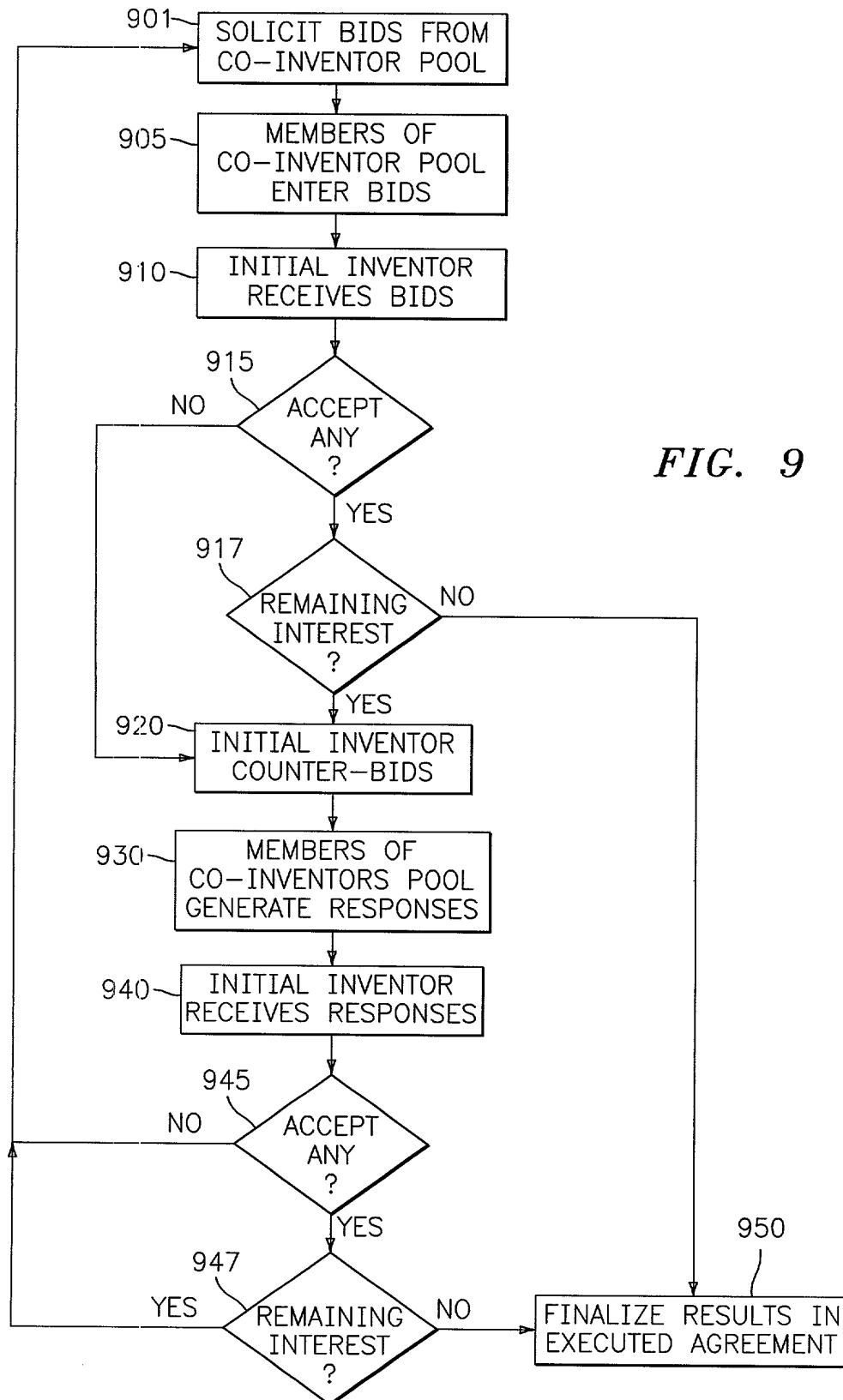


FIG. 7

**FIG. 8**



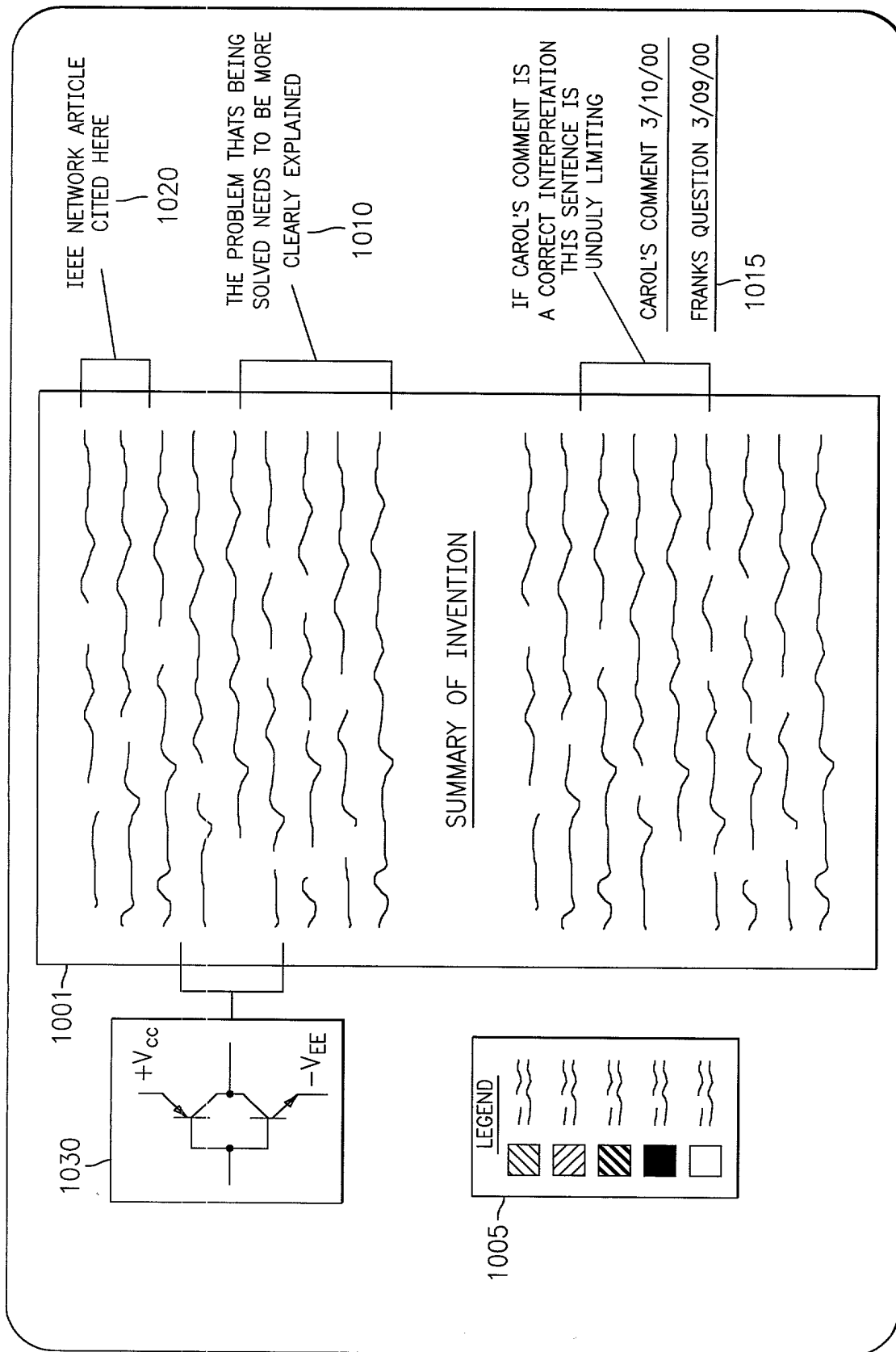


FIG. 10

Attorney's Docket No. YOR9-2000-0204 (728-168)**PATENT****COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY****(ORIGINAL, DESIGN, NATIONAL STAGE OF PCT, SUPPLEMENTAL,  
DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION OR CIP)**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

**TYPE OF DECLARATION**This declaration is of the following type: *(check one applicable item below)*

- ☒ original  
☐ design  
☐ supplemental

NOTE: If the declaration is for an International Application being filed as a divisional, continuation or continuation-in-part application do not check next item; check appropriate one of last three items.

- ☐ national stage of PCT

NOTE: If one of the following 3 items apply then complete and also attach ADDED PAGES FOR DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION OR CIP.

- ☐ divisional  
☐ continuation  
☐ continuation-in-part (CIP)

**INVENTORSHIP IDENTIFICATION**

WARNING: If the inventors are each not the inventors of all the claims an explanation of the facts, including the ownership of all the claims at the time the last claimed invention was made, should be submitted.

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name, I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor *(if only one name is listed below)* or an original, first and joint inventor *(if plural names are listed below)* of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**TITLE OF INVENTION****WEB-BASED SECURED FORUM FOR COLLABORATIVE INVENTIONS CREATION**

(Declaration and Power of Attorney [1-1] - page 1 of 6)

**SPECIFICATION IDENTIFICATION**

the specification of which: *(complete (a), (b) or (c))*

- (a) ☒ is attached hereto.
- (b) ☐ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as ☐ Serial No. 0 / \_\_\_\_\_ or ☐ Express Mail No., as Serial No. not yet known \_\_\_\_\_ and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_ *(if applicable)*.

NOTE: Amendments filed after the original papers are deposited with the PTO which contain new matter are not accorded a filing date by being referred to in the declaration. Accordingly, the amendments involved are those filed with the application papers or, in the case of a supplemental declaration, are those amendments claiming matter not encompassed in the original statement of invention or claims. See 37 C.F.R. 1.67.

- (c) ☐ was described and claimed in PCT International Application No. \_\_\_\_\_ filed on \_\_\_\_\_ and as amended under PCT Article 19 on \_\_\_\_\_ *(if any)*.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF REVIEW OF PAPERS AND DUTY OF CANDOR**

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

- ☐ In compliance with this duty there is attached an information disclosure statement in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98.

**PRIORITY CLAIM (35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d))**

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed.

*(complete (d) or (e))*

- (d) ☒ no such applications have been filed.
- (e) ☐ such applications have been filed as follows.

(Declaration and Power of Attorney [1-1] - page 2 of 6)

00615351-071200



**NOTE:** Where item (c) is entered above and the International Application which designated the U.S. itself claimed priority check item (e), enter the details below and make the priority claim.

**A. PRIOR FOREIGN/PCT APPLICATION(S) FILED WITHIN 12 MONTHS  
(6 MONTHS FOR DESIGN) PRIOR TO THIS APPLICATION  
AND ANY PRIORITY CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d)**

COUNTRY (OR INDICATE IF PCT)	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 119
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

**CLAIM FOR BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. PROVISIONAL APPLICATION(S)**  
**(34 U.S.C. § 119(e))**

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

**PROVISIONAL APPLICATION NUMBER****FILING DATE**

**Abstract**

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**ALL FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY FILED MORE THAN 12 MONTHS  
(6 MONTHS FOR DESIGN) PRIOR TO THIS U.S. APPLICATION**

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**NOTE:** If the application filed more than 12 months from the filing date of this application is a PCT filing forming the basis for this application entering the United States as (1) the national stage, or (2) a continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part, then also complete **ADDED PAGES TO COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION OR CIP APPLICATION** for benefit of the prior U.S. or PCT application(s) under 35 U.S.C. §120.

(Declaration and Power of Attorney [1-1] - page 3 of 6)

**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. (*List name and registration number*)

MANNY W. SCHECTER, Reg. No. 31,722; LAUREN C. BRUZZONE, Reg. No. 35,082; CHRISTOPHER A. HUGHES, Reg. No. 26,914; EDWARD A. PENNINGTON, Reg. No. 32,588; JOHN E. HOEL, Reg. No. 26,279; JOSEPH C. REDMOND, JR., Reg. No. 18,753; STEPHEN C. KAUFMAN, Reg. No. 29,551; JAY P. SBROLLINI, Reg. No. 36,266; DAVID M. SHOPI, Reg. No. 39,835; ROBERT M. TREPP, Reg. No. 25,933; LOUIS P. HERZBERG, Reg. No. 41,500; DANIEL P. MORRIS, Reg. No. 32,053; PAUL J. OTTERSTEDT, Reg. No. 37,411; LOUIS J. PERCELLO, Reg. No. 33,206; DOUGLAS W. CAMERON, Reg. No. 31,596; and WAYNE L. ELLENBOGEN, Reg. No. 43,602

**SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:**

Paul J. Farrell, Esq.  
DILWORTH & BARRESE  
333 Earle Ovington Boulevard  
Uniondale, New York 11553

**DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO:**

(*Name and telephone number*)

Paul J. Farrell  
(516) 228-8484

**DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

**SIGNATURE(S)**

NOTE: Carefully indicate the family (or last) name as it should appear on the filing receipt and all other documents.

Full name of sole or first inventor Wlodek W. Zadrozny

Inventor's signature 

Date 6/20/00 Country of Citizenship U.S.A.

Residence 30 Saw Mill River Road, Hawthorne, NY 10532

Post Office Address Same as above

(Declaration and Power of Attorney [1-1] - page 4 of 6)

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Full name of second joint inventor, if any Dimitri Kanevsky  
Inventor's signature *D Kanevsky*  
Date 6/26/2000 Country of Citizenship U.S.A.  
Residence 1358 Spring Valley Road, Ossining, New York 10562  
Post Office Address Same as residence address

Full name of third joint inventor, if any Alexander Zlatsin  
Inventor's signature *Alexander Zlatsin*  
Date 6/26/2000 Country of Citizenship U.S.A.  
Residence 848 Kessler Place, Yorktown Heights, New York 10598  
Post Office Address Same as residence address

(Declaration and Power of Attorney [1-1] - page 5 of 6)

**CHECK PROPER BOX(ES) FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING  
ADDED PAGE(S) WHICH FORM A PART OF THIS DECLARATION**

- ☐ Signature for subsequent joint inventors.  
Number of pages added \_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Signature by administrator(trix), executor(trix) or legal representative for deceased or incapacitated inventor.  
Number of pages added \_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Signature for inventor who refuses to sign or cannot be reached by person authorized under 37 C.F.R. §1.47.  
Number of pages added \_\_\_\_.

\*\*\*

- ☐ Added pages to combined declaration and power of attorney for divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part (CIP) application.  
Number of pages added \_\_\_\_.

\*\*\*

- ☐ Authorization of attorney(s) to accept and follow instructions from representative.

\*\*\*

If no further pages form a part of this Declaration then end this Declaration with this page and check the following item.

- ☒ This declaration ends with this page.

(Declaration and Power of Attorney [1-1] - page 6 of 6)

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002740-TEST960

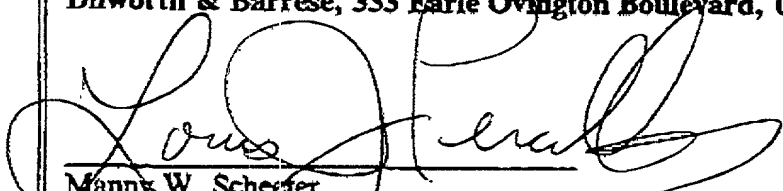
Attorney Docket No. YOR9-2000-0204 (728-168)**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**APPLICANT(S):** Wlodek W. Zadrozny et al.  
**SERIAL NO.:** Not Yet Assigned  
**FILED:** Concurrently Herewith  
**FOR:** WEB-BASED SECURED FORUM FOR COLLABORATIVE INVENTIONS CREATION

**ASSOCIATE POWER OF ATTORNEY**

Please recognize PETER G. DILWORTH, Reg. No. 26,450; ROCCO S. BARRESE, Reg. No. 25,253; DAVID M. CARTER, Reg. No. 30,949; PAUL J. FARRELL, Reg. No. 33,494; PETER DELUCA, Reg. No. 32,978; JEFFREY S. STEEN, Reg. No. 32,063; ADRIAN T. CALDERONE, Reg. No. 31,746; GEORGE M. KAPLAN, Reg. No. 28,375; JOSEPH W. SCHMIDT, Reg. No. 36,920; RAYMOND E. FARRELL, Reg. No. 34,816; RUSSELL R. KASSNER, Reg. No. 36,183; CHRISTOPHER G. TRAINOR, Reg. No. 39,517; GEORGE LIKOUREZOS, Reg. No. 40,067; JAMES M. LOEFFLER, Reg. No. 37,873; and EDWARD C. MEAGHER, Reg. No. 41,189; SUSAN L. HESS, Reg. No. 37,350; MICHAEL P. DILWORTH, Reg. No. 37,311; PETER B. SORELL, Reg. No. 44,349; GLENN D. SMITH, Reg. No. 42,156; MICHAEL E. CARMEN, Reg. No. 43,533; HAROLD G. FURLOW, Reg. No. 43,621; KEVIN C. ECKER, Reg. No. 43,600; THEODOSIOS THOMAS, Reg. No. 45,159; and MICHAEL J. MUSELLA, Reg. No. 39,310, each of them of DILWORTH & BARRESE, 333 Earle Ovington Boulevard, Uniondale, New York 11553 as associate attorneys in the above-mentioned application, with full power to prosecute said application, to make alterations and amendments therein, and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

All written communications are to be sent to Paul J. Farrell,  
Dilworth & Barrese, 333 Earle Ovington Boulevard, Uniondale, New York 11553.

  
Manny W. Scherter  
Registration No. 31,722  
Louis J. Percello  
Registration No. 33,206  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

7/11/00

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